Christian Courier

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No funding for Christian schools, court rules

Appeal court decision worse than 1992 ruling

Sylvia Bakker

TORONTO — Christian schools in Ontario have suffered a major setback on their long road to obtaining provincial funding.

In a unanimous decision last week, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled the provincial government is not discriminating against the independent schools by failing to provide them with funding.

"We are shocked and upset by this . . . decision," said Adrian Guldemond, executive director of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools.

"The court is accepting a view similar to that of 19th century society," he said. "If you belong to a minority, you have to accept the consequences of systemic discrimination."

At a four-day hearing last September, the OACS, together with the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), argued the government discriminates against religion by funding Catholic schools, but not Christian and Jewish schools.

Both groups were appealing a 1992 lower-court ruling that found the constitutional rights of parents with children in the independents schools were being infringed upon — but to a reasonable limit in a free and democratic society.

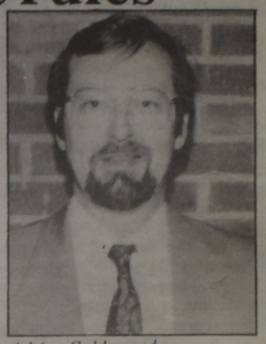
"It is blatant discrimination."

This latest decision was even worse for independent schools in that it found the provincial policy does *not* infringe on the parents' rights.

The Charter "does not provide, in my view, an entitlement to state support for the exercise of one's religion," Chief Justice Charles Dubin said explaining the decision.

Ontario remains the only province in the country which does not provide any kind of funding for it's independent

See **OACS** *p. 20...*



BERT WITVOET

Adrian Guldemond

Reformed Christians don't shut down schools, do they?

John Pater

EDMONTON — "This is the last graduating class . . . , the last school assembly . . . , the last recess . . . ." The word "last" was used a lot in June at East Edmonton Christian School. And like many "lasts," those at East Edmonton were filled with feelings of sadness, anger, disbelief, guilt and resignation.

After 39 years of educational history, "East School" was closed on June 24 by the Edmonton Society for Christian Education to cut costs. The society runs two other Kindergarten-through-Grade 9 schools and a high school.

Closing down a Christian school is not something Reformed Canadians are used to. Rather, building, opening and expanding Christian educational facilities in this country is a legacy of the Reformed vision, several observers noted.

But in rare instances, like that which Reformed Edmontonians just faced, communities have had to witness a cutting back of that vision, or at least a paring down of the fruits of their labors.

"Essentially we're consolidating," says Alyce Oosterhuis, president of the society. Most of the 170 students who attended East will go to a nearby (7 kilometres away) sister school, North Edmonton Christian School, while 50 students from that school will be transferred to West Edmonton Christian School.

Teaching positions have been "consolidated" as well. By closing down the school the system will save about a quarter of a million dollars next year. The cost cut was one many in the society felt they had to make, faced as they were with declining enrolment for the last five years, with cuts in government grants and an accumulated deficit of over $100,000.

But those sober facts didn't make the final closing of East Edmonton an easy matter. "East is not just an address, it's a place of life," said Stuart Williams, principal of the Christian high school. He was one of several people who spoke at a closing ceremony for the school in June.

First and last

The school is the oldest of the four schools in the Edmonton Christian school system. When it opened in 1955 it had four classrooms. Many immigrant families built and bought homes nearby so their children could attend the school, and that continued

See **THE** *p. 2...*

After 30 years

JOANNE TICHELAAR

It didn't take the Class of '64 of HDCH long to find the perfect spot for a reunion picture: right in front of the school sign thanking God for the Class of 1994. Used to improvisation, these older grads simply turned a 9 around. (See editorial for a reflection. See also page two for identification.)

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News

Forging a path to political divorce

POLITICS

David Koyzis

Is the breakup of Canada inevitable? Many of our politicians are acting and speaking as if it were. Just seven years ago, a popular Canadian politics textbook stated that Quebec separatism was "yesterday's issue" and that the magnitude of French-English conflict was decreasing. This, of course, was before the Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords, the Mulroney government's failed attempts at renewing federalism. But with Lucien Bouchard's Bloc Quebecois the Official Opposition in Ottawa, and with Jacques Parizeau's Parti Quebecois likely to win the forthcoming provincial election, many are taking seriously the possibility of a Canada without Quebec.

The current debate began when federal Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin assured aboriginal communities in northern Quebec that their right to remain in Canada would be guaranteed. This suggested that an independent Quebec might not leave confederation with all its current territory, which sparked an angry reaction among separatists. Parizeau himself argued that international law supported the right of Quebec to stay within its present borders. Unfortunately, international law offers few guidelines other than being biased against the dismemberment of existing states, including Canada.

Theory doesn't fit reality

Allen Buchanan has recently pointed out that the issue of secession, that is, of a particular territorial community breaking off from a larger territory, is one which has yet to be dealt with by most political theories. Indeed, only one country's constitution has gone so far as to provide for a right of secession: the former Soviet Union's granted the full union republics, such as Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania, the theoretical right to leave the union. But the supremacy of the Communist Party effectively nullified this right until the early '90s.

When states do break up, the breakup tends not to be along neat and tidy lines. When Yugoslavia fell apart three years ago, the seceding republics believed they had the right to take all their territory with them. But Yugoslavia's internal borders were just as artificial as the federation itself. For example, the boundary between Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina was once the international frontier between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires. In the former Soviet Union, the Crimean peninsula was Russian territory until 1954, when Nikita Khrushchev handed it over to Ukraine without consulting its residents.

It is hardly surprising, then, that for many inhabitants of these regions, the current boundaries look arbitrary and are therefore thought subject to change. When Croatia declared its independence, half a million ethnic Serbs living on the wrong side of the border had no desire to leave with it, and thus sought to exercise their presumed right to self-determination just as Croatia itself had done. Yet in so doing they paved the way to open warfare.

Buchanan suggests that we need to fill the gap in traditional political theory by thinking seriously about the unthinkable: the possible breakup of federations. In particular, a federal system such as Canada may need to consider enshrining in its written constitution some mechanism whereby one of its members might withdraw legally and peacefully. Such a mechanism would make secession difficult but not impossible.

At present the opinion polls indicate that most Quebecers oppose outright sovereignty. But those numbers could change. As painful as this might be for us, we would do well to consider adopting a measure to put the current process on a sound legal footing before it is too late.

David T. Koyzis teaches political science at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont.

Front page picture

Front row, from l.to r.: Peter Van Brakel, Ray Elgersma, John Groenewegen, Eveline Prinsen-Stout, Joanne Tigchelaar-Heidbuurt, Rudy Ouwehand, Renskje De Jong, Marianne Van Setten-Hawthorne, Job Van Hartingsveldt, Leonard Van Harten; Second row: Joe Hazenberg, Bernice Schrotenboer (former principal), Jane Mulder-Drost, Andy Zylstra, Riekie De Weerd-Kramer, Clarence Hogeterp, Gary Ouwehand, Christine Dam-Schaafsma, Christina Schaafsma-Wubs, Arend Kersten, Art Bouwers; Top: Dan Tigchelaar, Bert Witvoet (former teacher), Lowell Witvoet (former teacher), David Tigchelaar.

The last member to graduate

...continued from p. 1

through at least two generations.

One of this year's Grade 9 graduates, Trevor Stork, spoke of that in his valedictorian address. "Thirty-nine years ago when east school first opened, my mother entered Grade 1," he said. "Now I'm the last member of my family to graduate from this school." He went on to thank "our grandparents who had the foresight to start this school."

The Bruinsmas: two generations attended East Edmonton.

From fight to prayer

The tough decision to close down East School came at a highly charged society meeting on February 28. About 550 people crowded into the school gym (normally about 100 people attend these meetings). Three hours and two dozen speakers later, the vote was 315 to 244 to close down the school.

For the next few months some tried to fight that decision. Emotional protest meetings were held and petitions to the board were gathered, but the decision stuck. At times the hard feelings that wrenched the Christian school community over this matter got personal. Board president Alyce Oosterhuis says, "I'm not going to go down as the most loved person in Edmonton."

And then the "lasts" came. At a closing ceremony last month, several hundred people gathered to say goodbye to the school. "In this humble school building" they prayed from a prepared litany: "We have offered an inheritance to our children and our children's children.... O God, as we teeter on the brink of this ending..., send us on our way with your wisdom."

Hope for the future

Bob Bruinsma was one of those who came to say goodbye. He was a Grade 4 student when East first opened its doors, and was valedictorian of his Grade 9 graduating class. His three children attended the school as well. And though he says he doesn't get emotionally attached to buildings, he admits that "the school is more than a physical plant."

He easily recalled the time he got kicked out of school; and the walks across open fields to get to the school in the early days. Bruinsma, who is a professor of education at The King's University College, says he's glad it's just one school building that is being closed down.

"I'd be pretty broken up if we were saying goodbye to Reformed Christian education in the city of Edmonton," he says. Bruinsma shares the concern of many, though, when he expresses this fear: "I hope this isn't the beginning of a trend."

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education is banking on the fact that it's *not* the start of a trend. The East School building is not being disposed of; instead, it is being rented out for three years. The hope is that, should enrolments increase and/or government grants change, the building known as East School these last 39 years can once again resume it's calling.

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News

China venerates Mao because he was a dictator

Eric Hagt

BEIJING, China — "Do you believe in God?" With only slight hesitation he came back, "No, I believe in Mao." Though not all in China venerate Mao Ze Dong to the degree this middle-aged businessman does, Mao's popularity is anything but waning.

Seventy-two years after he helped found the Chinese Communist Party, 44 years after he established the People's Republic of China, and 17 years after his death, the country observed the centennial of Mao Ze Dong's birth on December 26, 1993. Billboards quoting his dictums, parades bearing his statue and even pocketwatches featuring his picture commemorated the event.

The whole barrage of festivities seemed to belie historical facts that reveal the disastrous effects of Mao's policies on the Chinese nation. Stories recounting the tragedies during the Cultural Revolution can be heard in every household. Certainly, the famine of '60-'61 in which millions died due to Mao's ludicrous campaigns remains fresh in the minds of the Chinese people. The list goes on.

God-like

Yet in the face of these facts, the late Chairman Mao has been exonerated, and elevated to god-like status. Many critics would argue that this phenomenon can be attributed to propaganda, the government's attempt to resurrect the name of the first Communist Party leader. But no one is forcing taxi drivers to decorate their dashboards with Mao mini-portraits. Nor is there a requirement to carry wallet-sized pictures of Mao.

These signs, though subtle, reveal a predominantly favorable opinion towards China's former leader. From my experience, these sentiments are just as widespread outside the politically controlled capital as within it.

Deng Xiao Ping, himself a victim of the Cultural Revolution, summed it up this way; "It is true that he made gross mistakes during the Cultural Revolution, but if we judge his activities as a whole, his contributions to the Chinese people far outweigh his mistakes."

The Chinese perspective on history differs from that of the Western World. During its 5,000-year history, China has always been governed by totalitarian-type regimes. From the era of the emperors to the present day, successive leadership in China has depended greatly on strong, centralized power. While the West prefers democratic government, the Chinese esteem absolute power. Mao certainly fits the mold.

Mao's picture looms large everywhere.

Mao made his greatest mistakes during the last 17 years of his reign. But it has now been 17 years since his death, and many of the wounds have had time to heal.

Historian Lu stated it this way: "Times were tough then, people were poor; but there was an equality among us. The gap between the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak, was minimal. Everyone was under the rule of Mao; everyone was afraid of him."

Though it seems somewhat ironic, many older people prefer the stability and simplicity of those days to the great pursuit of capitalism in which China is now engaged.

Opinions on Mao vary, but few would deny his influence in shaping modern China. It was Mao, after all, who mobilized the rural population to resist the onslaught of the Japanese. It was also Mao who defeated the Guomintang and restored a sense of pride in being Chinese. He proclaimed from atop Tiananmen gate on Oct. 1, 1949, on the establishment of the People's Republic, "The Chinese have stood up."

In spite of Mao's many faults, it is due to the fulfilment of this statement that the Chinese people will always revere Mao Ze Dong as a great leader, and perhaps more.

Eric Hagt is studying Chinese on a two-year exchange at the Beijing Foreign Language Institute in China. He is a native of St. Catharines, Ont.

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Editorial

Strength came forth from a church basement

"Anybody vant to pay?" That's what the Rev. Wiebe van Dijk used to say as he poked his face through the classroom curtain and held out his hand. He was collecting the weekly $1.50 tuition fee from the students of Hamilton District Christian High School. The year was 1960. From that money my annual teacher's salary of $3,400 would be paid.

I was reminded of all this when two weeks ago I attended a reunion of the Class of '64 of Hamilton District Christian High School. More than 20 of the original 33 graduates showed up, most of them with spouses. They came from five provinces, two states and a territory. More amazing is the fact that all 33 graduates are still alive.

I was a rookie teacher and their homeroom teacher when 30 green-as-grass Grade 9 students descended into the basement of Mount Hamilton Christian Reformed Church way back in September 1960. The Grade 9 classroom was a curtained-off space in the social hall of the Mount Hamilton church. The "library" contained 150 books and two sets of encyclopedia. We had no gym and no sports field. The science room was the kitchen, which also served as staff room.

I taught English, French, health and Latin that first year, which slimmed down to English and French the following years as the staff expanded.

A special group

When the Class of '64 left, I left too, for Toronto District Christian High School. For the sentimental reason of coincident beginnings and endings, therefore, the Class of '64 has remained a special group of people for me. I have kept their class picture hanging in my study. But there were other reasons why they were special.

They were a uniquely talented, fun-loving and purposeful bunch of people. The make-shift arrangements and the informality that these pioneer years brought to the situation created a bond between the participants. This special quality survived the 30 years of separation as the reunion showed a remarkable spirit of closeness and joy.

Value for their money

Miraculously enough, education took place in that most austere and poorly equipped excuse for a school. None of the people I met at the reunion looked terribly damaged by that earlier experiment in Christian secondary education.

When you hear where they ended up in their careers, it reads something like this: two teachers, four nurses, an X-ray technician, four pastors, someone studying for the pastorate in a mid-life career change, a carpenter, a psychiatrist, an official in Foreign Affairs in Ottawa, a truck driver, an engineer overseeing fuel distribution in the Northwest Territories, the liason officer between the Alberta government and private schools, two business people, an accountant, two bank clerks, a journalist, the director of CRWRC in Canada, a counsellor and a homemaker. That leaves seven whose occupations I don't know.

Most of these people are raising or have raised a family, and all but three are actively involved in church life and other Christian endeavors. There were some divorces and career failures among them. Appearances can fool, of course, and I'm not able to look inside people's hearts and lives, but on the whole I felt I was seeing a fairly wholesome bunch of people. I would say that most of the parents of these former students received value for their money in return for a costly faith step taken in the early '60s!

God came through

How can this be? I thought. When you think of the educational resources thought to be essential today and the vast amount of money spent on schools, then surely we must have missed the boat of good careers and useful lives by a country mile.

What *is* the secret of good education? Cohesive and involved families, a good work ethic, good school and class morale are all very helpful, as is a dedicated and homogenous staff. All of these things played a significant role in the education of the Class of '64. But I'm convinced that the main ingredient was the keeping of promises by God when parents, teachers, boards and students chose to rely on them.

"If only your parents were here to witness this," I thought, as I looked over the group assembled with their spouses. The event, punctuated by recollections and outrageous laughter, was appropriately concluded with the song "Amazing Grace."

Foolishness can shame others

I can sense some of the depth of that grace when I think back to how we ran a full-fledged high school with four teachers in their 20s and a principal who was trained as a pastor and who was so inexperienced in matters of health, for example, that when a salesman came around to sell a sanitary napkin machine for the girls' washroom, the principal said without blinking an eye, "I sink the boys' washroom should have one too." Pretty amazing grace, eh?

But this same man also offered the students a vision as he wrote in the 1961 yearbook: "I know that you are preparing yourselves for a certain task in life. But to mean something for this world in our days is in the first place to follow him who is the highest in wisdom." That's the beauty of a childlike faith: you can order a Kotex machine for boys and still follow the highest in wisdom.

The Apostle Paul knew something about that when he wrote this to the uninfluential, mostly lower-class Corinthian believers: "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."

I have a riddle for you: "Strength came from behind curtains, and knowledge out of a church basement." What is it?

BW

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Letters

Call for open dialogue on gay rights

After reading your editorial "Why the NDP ran out of time and support" (June 17), I decided it was important to declare that not all your readers share your point of view.

I am a Christian heterosexual woman in a traditional family. Many of my choices have been blessed by God. But, I believe, so are the choices of many gay and lesbian persons and couples who seek equal recognition and protection under our laws. Instead of seeing the work of gay and lesbian activists who advocate for equal rights and a redefinition of the family as the work of Satan, I feel deeply saddened by the defeat of Bill 167 in the Ontario legislature.

I have noted in the last weeks that your paper featured opinions and attitudes mainly reflective of your own, Bert. Is there no diversity of thinking on this issue among our readers? Wouldn't an open dialogue on this subject be welcomed?

I would venture that many Christians among your readers may be struggling to develop an informed opinion on the many questions surrounding homosexuality. I know that there is more than one Christian viewpoint on this important issue.

I challenge you to solicit articles from Christians whose process of discernment may have brought them to different conclusions than your own.

Mary Gerritsma
Toronto, Ont.

Glad 'same-sex' bill was defeated

My wife and I have only one word to say about your editorial "Why the NDP ran out of time and support" (June 17), "Amen." And to God be the glory and honor for the defeat of Bill 167. He is still in control.

Janny and Koop Mulder
Bracebridge, Ont.

Can't minister to gays unless you know them

I appreciate the intentions of Mr. Witvoet in trying to help CC's readership minister to homosexuals in a Christ-like manner, but I have serious concerns about the ability of the Ramsey Colloquium to help people accomplish this. It's true that the report's stated aim is to help Christians offer "supportive and knowledgeable pastoral care" to gays and lesbians but nowhere do they ever encourage people to reach out to gay people *for that knowledge*. The colloquium supplies it all, and in doing so, spends a good deal of time discrediting the very people who they are trying to help.

It's obvious they are trying to be positive, but this doesn't alleviate the problems that arise. The central theme in this issue: the demands of same-sex couples *who are already raising children* to be legally recognized as family, is poorly handled, since these people never appear in the discussion. In their place are the "gay activists" and the familiar adversarial framework that places gays on one side and The Family on the other, except that the traditional judgmental accusations about gays being promiscuous hedonists ever ready to prey on children are all neatly tucked away as assumptions and implications.

I don't mean to dismiss this report because some of its insight are valuable and many of the arguments are worth considering. However, I don't think you can minister to a group of people you personally know little about with the tacit understanding that you have all the answers.

One way the report could be put to good use is to give people who rarely encounter homosexuals the incentive to approach members of the many Christian gay support groups. The Ramsey Colloquium would be an excellent focus for discussion, and the perspectives that gay and lesbian Christians bring to it can't help but improve our understanding of their lives. Also, they will probably appreciate anyone from the Christian community at large taking an interest in them.

Trevor George
Toronto, Ont.

Smouldering concern over addiction

It was about time that some article about smoking would be written (Church Press, May 27), even though it was a report from another magazine. While society is working hard to ban smoking in public places, the church has remained silent.

The "world" teaches us a lesson and mentions what a health hazard the addiction is. Thousands die every year directly or indirectly of second-hand smoke.

Let's call a spade a spade! Smoking is not just a bad or unethical habit; it is a sin of which many in our churches have to be set free. Just like alcohol, smoking kills.

I wonder why our church has not spoken out against smoking. Is it because we are hypocritical, or because too many of our members, including officebearers (who should set an example) are addicted to smoking?

Let's keep that "burning" issue alive.

J. Braacx
Burnaby, B.C.

Wrong to recommend tainted songbook

As a parent of children who play the piano, I am always interested in new music books. I was saddened, however, by Marian Van Til's suggestion that the book entitled *The Spirit of Singing: Songs for Building Community* is "the ideal campfire companion" (CC June 17).

I am disappointed that you recommend a book even though it promotes songs that use feminine pronouns for God and also seem to explore nature religion.

Although I did not see or buy this book, I believe that we should try to follow Christ in all of life, including our songs. It is our task to pass that on to the next generation.

Teny Brouwer
Chatham, Ont.

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Did I really say that?

I am writing in response to the July 1, 1994, issue of *Christian Courier*, headed "CRC shuts door on women elders and pastors."

When I read Marian Van Til's article with reference to comments I made at synod, I simply can't believe that this is what I said. It is certainly not what was intended. Please allow me to clarify.

You were absolutely correct quoting me as saying that "local option is no option." I believe that shifting the debate from the denomination to the local church simply does not solve the problem but only changes the location of the debate. For the local church to decide on the issue would still be a problem for those of us who believe that the Bible does not provide warrant for women in office. Nevertheless, one does not have to be in office to serve the Lord. All God's people have been spiritually gifted, women and men alike and the Lord has used these gifts mightily in the building of His Church and Kingdom.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to clarify this statement.

Jake Ellens
Brantford, Ont.

Our reporter stands by all of what she wrote.

Editor.

NO ISSUES FOR
THE REST OF JULY.
LOOK FOR US AGAIN
ON AUGUST 12.

Correction

In a June 10 article on the mayor of Strathroy, we reported on the state of the Christian Reformed community in Strathroy. "There are two Christian Reformed churches in Strathroy totalling around 1,000 families," we reported. Our Strathroy correspondent, Jacoba Bos, writes back: "If we had that many CRC families between the two churches we would be 'around' the church because we certainly could not fit them into our sanctuaries." We shall declare the June 10 statement null and void. The operative word now is: "around 1,000 members." At least, *Yearbook 1993* of the CRC reports 1193 members between the two churches.

On the job with:

David Palm, instrument builder

Age: 40-something
Company: Self-employed
Location: Shellbrook, Sask.

COURTESY DAVID PALM

David Palm shows off the finished product.

How did you get to be an instrument builder?

When I was a little boy I watched my grandfather build a violin, and since then I have always been interested in that instrument. I started playing the violin around my 13th birthday, relatively late compared to other musicians. Soon, I realized that I would need a good instrument to sound "good" — a hand-built instrument.

Around age 25 I visited a Saskatoon instrument builder, the late Frank Siedler. He showed me around in his shop; I saw how he worked with the wood and the tools. Right then and there I decided I wanted to make a violin; so I did. I borrowed a book from the local library to get me started. I built three instruments and returned to Frank Siedler. He was thrilled with my work and gave me some pointers as well.

I joined an American association of violin makers and clubs for instrument builders. I also entered competitions and went on tours. I visited violin schools and other violin makers. Several years later, Frank Siedler passed away and left me all of his wood and tools.

I can't point to a specific day when I decided I *was* an instrument builder. At first I earned most of my income from farming; but as musicians' interest in my instruments rose, I was able to make it my (near) full-time occupation. I continue to learn by studying other instruments, by training the eye to look for specific detail, especially the varnishes.

What is your typical work day like?

I get up at about 6 a.m., do Bible study and go for a hike. Then I have breakfast and after that I disappear into the shop. I work from my home. I do most of my work during the winter. I repair instruments and I build them. It takes up to two months to build a cello and about one month for a violin. It is a slow process, especially the varnishing. That's why hand-built cellos start at around $10,000 and can go up as high as $100,000 or more (depending on the reputation of the builder). Of course, that's not what the instrument builder puts in his pocket.

I listen to CBC classical radio all day long. I sense God's presence in the music. God created music and it is to bring him glory. Much (classical) music is inspired, and it doesn't stop at church music.

Does your job help you live your faith?

I became a Christian in 1981. It is customary for instrument builders to put their name inside the instruments they build. Since becoming a Christian I sign my name and underneath it I add "Jesus is Lord." It is my testimony. I want to praise God for the talents he has given me.

I get lots of comments on the name tag. Musicians write me, asking if I am a Christian.

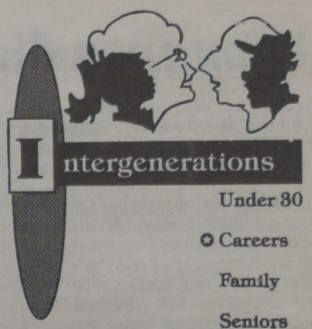
What about making a living?

God is providing for me. My main goal is to put good instruments in places where they will be used well. In the past 20 years I have built about 50 instruments and they have been sold all over Canada, and more recently in America as well.

I have a passion, a love, for what I am doing. One can't enter this field to become rich. It's like art: if going for the dollar, you won't succeed. I am not getting rich, but I'm quite satisfied.

What do you like best about your job?

I like to watch the musicians who buy my instruments grow in their fields. I love music.



Nandy Heule

The opinions expressed in this column might not reflect average working conditions or career prospects. Do you know a Christian worker (paid or volunteer) you would like to see interviewed for this column? Call Nandy at (905) 988-6174.

Nandy heard a David Palm cello played in her living room on Easter Sunday. Thank you Nisse — may God inspire your music!

An open letter to my daughter, a CRC elder

Dear Corrie,

The news that the Christian Reformed Synod had positioned itself against women following their God-given calling caused you and others a lot of grief. Your tears were only a part of the weeping of thousands of women. Mother and I had to work through a lot of anger before we could pray. Our anger has now turned to deep sadness.

We know how faithful you were in your office of elder. How you agonized about issues that arose in your consistory. We know how you fulfilled your obligations with profound dedication and how you were able to give leadership with guileless humility.

I remember the day when you made your public profession of faith. I officiated at that truly moving service, but already then I felt some apprehension in pronouncing: "I now welcome you to *full communion* with the people of God. Rest assured that all the privileges of such communion are now yours." But then the possibility of "women in office," beside that of being missionary, was only like a fleeting thought at the edges of our minds.

Now it seems that a group of men have declared your calling to be invalid.

Later on when we began to recognize how God had gifted you, and how committed you were to the church, we began to entertain hesitantly the idea that the Lord would call you to office among his people. Secretly, I confess that to you now, I wished you could and would become a minister of the gospel. God, however, opened for you the door to a different career in which, by his grace, you have become eminently successful.

Imagine our joy when your congregation called you to the office of elder. Good Reformed doctrine always maintained that a personally experienced calling to office needed the affirmation of God's people. You received that when you were installed as an elder in the Christian Reformed Church.

Now it seems that a group of men have declared your calling to be invalid. I am sure that they did so in the earnest conviction of being obedient to the Scriptures. Just as the Apostle Paul was so thoroughly convinced of doing God's will when he was still breathing threats against God's people.

Yet I am also sure that here we must feel akin with that courageous Reformer who, when called to give account of his calling, said, "Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me."

I am also reminded of the words of Gamaliel, "If it is from God, you will not be able to stop it." Your mother and I, within our deep sadness, take comfort in that wisdom. We believe, indeed, that your calling, and that of many other women in our denomination, is from God. And he who starts a work will accomplish it.

We want you to know that we are aware of your pain and grief. I wish you could cry on my shoulder again as you did when you were a little girl and you were hurt. Perhaps there is some solace in the knowledge that we weep with thousands of others. David once prayed, "Record my lament; list my tears on your scroll, are they not in your record?" I am sure that God counts the tears of his people.

I have spoken with people who plan to leave our denomination. Even though I can understand that reaction, it will not be mine. The shine and radiance of belonging, though, has been severely diminished, as with a pair of shoes that has been splashed with mud. I think of our church in terms of a familiar book title: Cry the beloved denomination.

I don't dare to counsel you with respect to the future. I know that you will do the thing that is right in God's eyes. Keep the faith, and be assured of our love.

Dad.

Carl D. Tuyl

Media / Arts

Two summer movies provide wholesome entertainment for kids

Little Big League

Marian Van Til

Rated ***Family***
Stars Luke Edwards, Timothy Busfield, John Ashton, Ashley Crow, Kevin Dunn, Jason Robards
Story by Gregory K. Pincus
Directed by Andrew Scheinman

Most of Hollywood's attempts to represent "America's favorite pastime" on film have been about as memorable as the career of a perpetual minor leaguer. But *Little Big League* is in a better league than many recent baseball flicks and certainly scores big compared to *Angels in the Outfield*, the other current baseball movie.

At barely age 12 a kid is willed the ownership of the Minnesota Twins by his grandfather. Billy Haywood (played effectively by newcomer Luke Edwards) isn't the best player on his Little League team, but he's a whiz at baseball strategy and history. And he spends a lot of time watching the pros.

When Billy the Owner determines that the loud-mouthed abuse of the Twins' current manager is not the kind of "motivation" the hapless team needs, he fires the guy and takes over the job himself.

Ridiculous! What major leaguer would play for a kid? we (and they) ask. But through some fairly skillful writing and acting, *Little Big League* makes us quite believe its premise.

However, if any kid (or adult) then expects the Twins to soar from "worst to first" and win the pennant, or even the Series, he or she will be disappointed. This movie manages to aptly join fantasy and reality. After it gets viewers to accept its rather wild basic assumption, it keeps them grounded in reality while still encouraging kids to dream and have fun.

Don't grow up too fast

Billy determines that the Twins' major problem is that they see their profession as strictly business. And kid that Billy is, he believes the players need to rediscover *play*. That's no new insight, but Billy's prescription works.

His stint as the Twins' manager teaches him a lesson about valuing friends and about not trying to be an adult while still a kid (lost childhoods seem epidemic today.) Billy also learns much from his mother's firm but loving hand and their relationship is particularly warm.

We're also shown fascinating behind-the-scenes peeks at the workings of a major league team, ball park and locker room, a glimpse into the wealthy but nomadic lifestyle of the players, and a look at a few real players who appear as themselves.

We see no contract disputes; we don't even see any tobacco spitting. These players don't do anything worse that dump water balloons onto teammates from hotel windows. But this kind of film is not the place for an expose on players who womanize or abuse drugs. *Little Big League* hits a home run as a family movie.

The Lion King

Marian Van Til

*Rated **Family***
Animated feature produced by Walt Disney
Stars the voices of Matthew Broderick, Jeremy Irons, James Earl Jones, Whoopi Goldberg
Screenplay by Irene Mecchi, Jonathan Roberts and Linda Woolverton
Directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff

Walt Disney, which long ago set the standard for quality in animated features, has again surpassed its own high standard: *The Lion King* is a visually splendid, emotionally moving jungle tale with direct tie-ins to modern kids' experiences. It easily keeps adults and children entertained for one hour and 37 minutes.

There's all kinds of stuff here aimed to touch kids where they're at: the first Lion King, Mufasa, and his young son, Simba, develop a deep bond. While gamboling together through the kingdom, Mufasa teaches Simba that being king is not just a matter of getting to do whatever you like, or of being tough and brave. (Translation: a father has to be a role model and is crucial in his son's learning the responsibility required by adulthood.)

Seduction

But Simba isn't a fast learner. He allows himself to be seduced by his errant Uncle Scar's talk of what lies in the lands his father has, for good reason, forbidden him to explore. At first Simba's deliberate disobedience has only minor consequences and he is repentant. But his fascination with the forbidden comes to have tragic consequences which shake not only his own life, but the whole kingdom and very nature itself.

(One can hear a not-so-veiled warning to young urban viewers against succumbing to the wiles of drug dealers and gang leaders, or anyone else who suggests that you set aside what you know to be right.)

Because Simba's succumbs, Scar and his vicious hyena cronies take over the kingdom. Simba finds two true friends in the unlikely duo of a warthog and a meerkat and later is reunited with the young lioness to whom he was pledged as a cub. When she, and then the whole beleaguered kingdom, learns Simba is still alive, he is forced to quit dwelling on the past and confront his obligation to be what he was born to be: the next Lion King. There's no room for him to play either victim or culprit.

Still, Simba is reluctant to leave his now care-free life. It takes a Hamlet-like episode in which Mufasa appears to him to urge him on. Sadly but not unexpectedly, that's as close as *The Lion King* gets to spiritual guidance. Nevertheless, there's a lot of wisdom in this story.

When Simba finally does the right thing, the kingdom's Edenic qualities are restored.

The Lion King contains some superb music (especially the African choral songs which start the film). The other songs, written by no lesser lights than Tim Rice and Elton John, are good but not exceptional. The script is well-written and keeps adults amused with extremely funny one-liners dispersed throughout.

This is excellent family fare, and not beneath the dignity of any "sophisticated" older kids in the family.

Tenors reunite for World Cup final

ONYSETTERN NIKKI

Announcing plans for World Cup concert reunion: World famous tenors Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and conductor Zubin Mehta.

LOS ANGELES (WMC) — World-renowned tenors Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti, along with conductor Zubin Mehta, have announced their long-awaited reunion concert "Encore! The Three Tenors." The world's most famous tenors will sing together on July 16 at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles as part of World Cup Soccer activities.

In front of a stadium audience of 56,000 the three tenors will be seen and heard live by more than a billion people through a global broadcast that is expected to be the single largest in the history of music, television and radio.

With the southern California mountains as a backdrop, Dodger Stadium will be transformed into a magnificent neo-classical setting, framed by 20 majestic columns, two towering waterfalls and bountiful exotic greenery. A unique, state-of-the-art sound system has been specifically designed to augment the acoustical properties of Dodger Stadium and carry the tenors' voices with pristine clarity throughout the venue. "This will be the finest concert sound ever heard outdoor," says classical music impresario Tibor Rudas.

Speaking on behalf of the World Cup USA 1994 organizing committee, Alan I. Rothenberg said, "We are honored to have the world's greatest tenors, who also happen to be three of the world's biggest soccer fans, create the "World Cup" of music the night before our final competition."

Church, Marian Van Til, page editor

Festival allows Canadians to celebrate riches in Christ

The Canadian Christian Festival is "a national outreach" planned by a cross-section of Christians and held every four years. This year's festival, in Hamilton, Ont., attracted some 20,000 people daily during its June 23-26 run. The four main speakers were Christians known far beyond their immediate settings: Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey; Dr. James Forbes of The Riverside Church in New York City; Brigalia Bam, deputy general secretary of the South African Council of Churches; and Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche and beloved author and speaker.

In addition, dozens of workshops on a huge variety of topics were offered to registrants.

Below, CC regional reporter Robert VanderVennen gives just a glimpse into two of the main events.

Robert VanderVennen

The Canadian Christian Festival IV, held in Hamilton, Ont., last month, was a rich feast, beyond what anyone person could absorb. Worshipping with thousands of Christians from all over Canada was itself a celebration. Here are some of my own experiences.

It was exciting to start the day with a Bible study led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, on the biblical theme for the conference, John 15:1-17. Carey's method was to introduce the passage, set up small-group discussions, then to speak, lead in prayer and respond to questions.

Jesus used the literary method of allegory when he said, "I am the true vine," a method which allows different interpretations, said Carey. The focus of the allegory is on relationships, with *love* as the key word. We are accepted by God as we are, but sadly we can decide not to accept God's love.

"Abiding in Christ makes us people of prayer, makes us fruitful disciples," said Carey. "God's love affirms us — affirming is a favorite word of mine. I love Barnabas," he added. Carey's evangelistic heart and his warm love of people came through in his presentation.

All the world worships in Canada

A panel discussion on "Sharing the Joy of our Cultural Traditions" showed how Christians from all over the world, some who have been refugees, have found fitting communities of worship in Canada. Presbyterian pastor Andrew Lee affirmed homogeneous churches where Korean immigrants can hold to their Christian practices in a foreign world. Laotian Somphet Keosongseng, now a Salvation Army officer, left his Buddhist faith for Christianity in a refugee camp.

Marisa Dicenso, a second generation Italian Catholic, described the feasts, processions, folklore and speeches that mark the special religious days of her heritage. Jerry Berenguer was Filipino Roman Catholic and is now a joyful Canadian Pentecostal. Leonor Sorger is a Hispanic Catholic refugee who laments that her old country is losing its own culture in a rush to become North American.

Moving stories

The story of each was moving, and discussion with the audience showed the beautiful and varied ways people from everywhere in God's world live their faith in this country.

After a native Christian showed how she relates the faith of her tradition to her Christian faith, and a musical treat in a nearby church the "dessert" of the day was a worship celebration in Copps Coliseum and an address by a powerful black South African woman, Brigalia Bam. Exiled from South Africa, she worked for the World Council of Churches in Geneva before returning home. In response to Ken Medema's song, "What Time Is It?" Bam said, "This is a time of thanks to God for hearing our prayers."

ROBERT VANDERVENNEN

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey: insights into John 15.

"This was the dawning of God's time, when Mandela became president."

"I voted," she said, simply but with great feeling. Speaking of the great moral and spiritual challenge South Africa now faces, Bam asserted that church life cannot go on now as it did before.

"We feel that God's power is moving among us," said Bam. "We have joy in the experience of God working among us. Joy is a product of struggle, of hope and patience. Joy is given to those who are good stewards," she said.

Bam told the story of her brother's return home after 10 years of imprisonment in Robben Island. Her mother, in great joy, threw a big party to which she invited even members of the Special Branch, persecutors of blacks like her son. They didn't dare refuse to come, to participate in the meal and the prayers. This is a picture of today's exuberance — and problematic unity — among South African blacks.

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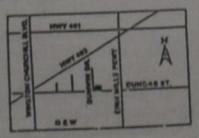

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'Modern' tithe: it ain't what it used to be

TORONTO, Ont. (EP) — Presbyterians in Canada proposed a "modern tithe" at their 120th General Assembly held June 5-11 in Toronto. In the business portion of the meeting, a shortfall of more than $3 million was reported toward the church's "Live the Vision" program. Commissioners passed a motion to challenge Canadian Presbyterians to give a "modern tithe," which was identified as five per cent of one's gross income. The traditional tithe has been 10 per cent.

Muslim groups gaining ground in Germany

BONN, Germany (EP) — Muslims make up now the third largest religious community in Germany, after the Roman Catholics and Protestants. The religion has more than two million German followers. According to the Ecumenical Press Service, German's Commissioner for Foreigners, Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobsen, called for more intensive interreligious dialogue, and appealed to the media to distinguish between Islam as a religion and fundamentalist minorities. The report also proposed that Islamic religious education be offered at Germany's state schools.

Invited to God's banquet

Andrew Kuyvenhoven
CHAPTER & VERSE

Andrew Kuyvenhoven, former CRC pastor and editor of The Banner, Christian Reformed Church weekly, is now retired and lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

God does not force us to come to himself. He invites us.

One of his best-known invitations is in Isaiah 55: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

Four times he says, "Come!" And unless we obey and go, personally and deliberately, we cannot participate in his salvation.

Ultimately he invites us to himself, of course. But what God offers is water, which stands for the basic need of humanity; and milk, which is even more precious; and wine, because he is preparing a feast. He calls us to the banquet of salvation.

A more elaborate description of the feast of God is in Isaiah 25:6. "On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meat and the finest wines."

This is the feast to outdo all feasts and to end all sorrows. "On this mountain he will destroy the shroud (of mourning) that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces...."

According to the preaching of Jesus, God's judgment is on Israel for ignoring the invitation to the banquet. Those who were originally invited are missing out. But others, who had never dared hope that they would be the guests of God, will attend the banquet of salvation. Gentiles will come, from East and West, and they "will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 8:11; compare Matt. 22:1-14, Luke 14:16-24, etc.).

How significant is it that both God the Father and Christ call us to a supper party? Must we take that literally?

No room for joylessness

It means at least two things. First, we must always represent life with God as something that's even greater and more exciting than any feast. Of course, the fight against sin, the devil and one's own flesh is nothing to make light of. The pain of dying to one's old self and the cross-bearing by the followers of Jesus are undeniable realities of Christian living.

But nothing can take the joy out of being a Christian. If the Christianity of your church or mine is dull and dour, we are missing the point. We are going to the feast that will outdo all feasts. No wonder that the first sign Jesus did during his earthly ministry was performed at a wedding where he changed the water into wine. You cannot take the joy out of Christianity without destroying it.

Secondly, the invitation to the banquet does not necessarily mean that when we see God, it will be at a five-course meal with a good bottle of wine. But we don't have to forbid such images either. Of course it will be a "spiritual" feast. We will meet Jesus. We shall be as he is and what he possesses we will inherit. But that includes the enjoyment of God's restored creation.

Every day will be Sunday. And the Sabbath will never end.

20,000 Christians target World Cup for evangelism effort

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP) — A Christian leader in Chicago who ordered sport-oriented evangelistic tracts to distribute in a parade prior to a World Cup soccer game found his efforts slowed, but not stopped, when the express delivery service was late. When he finally arrived and began to distribute the tracts after the parade, he couldn't keep up with the demand. He estimated that for every tract that he gave away, at least 20 other people wanted one.

The World Cup games, held in nine U.S. cities, have brought thousands of foreign soccer fans to U.S. soil. In an attempt to reach the massive numbers of people from around the world, Christian organizations have banded together to share the gospel with people of all nationalities. In addition, efforts are being made to capitalize on the interest in soccer to create future opportunities for evangelism through sports.

"There is such an interest in sports," Davyd Hepburn, director of new product development at the International Bible Society told EP News. "The World Cup focused attention on soccer in the United States beyond anything we have ever experienced before."

Hepburn estimated that there were some 20,000 people actively involved in evangelism across the U.S. for the World Cup games. "We are trusting God together," he said.

"Christians don't need to put money into the event," said Hepburn. "We want to learn how to use the event effectively for evangelism." Several organizations have been involved in producing materials for distribution at the games, but thousands of other people have been involved in distribution and crusade work, and will do follow-up work.

'Best foot forward'

In preparation for the games, IBS worked with the American Bible Society to produce *Best Foot Forward*, a gospel folder that highlights past World Cup events and presents the gospel. A New Testament which includes testimonies of various Christian athletes was also been made available for the games.

Despite having no professional league, it is estimated that there are some 15 million soccer players in the U.S. Because of the continuing interest in the sport, IBS produced a pamphlet called *Life's Ultimate Goal*, a soccer booklet. It will be distributed at future soccer events. "We want to make tools for Christian youth to be able to share their faith with other youth through recreational sports," said Hepburn.

IBS has also produced sports evangelism booklets for the Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, and Barcelona, Spain, along with similar tools for the 1990 Goodwill Games in Seattle and the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, B.C.

Churches worldwide mobilize to end bloody mayhem in Rwanda

Richard Nyberg

GABORONE, Botswana (NNI)—International Catholic and Protestant churches are at the centre of efforts to alleviate the tragedy created by the ongoing massacres in Rwanda. But the humanitarian task facing churches and other organizations is immense.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is moving relief supplies to the Tanzania border at Banaco, which now houses the world's largest refugee camp. LWR is also helping retrieve corpses from the crucial Kagera River which flows from Rwanda through Tanzania to Uganda and Lake Victoria.

Meanwhile, the evangelical aid group World Relief is working with Central African church leaders to provide blankets, sleeping mats, water containers, cooking utensils and plastic sheeting to 3,000 families in four camps in north-central Rwanda. World Relief is avoiding working directly with Rwandan churches because of the potential for backlash persecution.

Church leaders in Goma are organizing meetings among people from both Hutu and Tutsi tribes to pray and worship together to plant seeds of reconciliation, and there are reports of Rwandan Christians protecting each other — even intertribally.

Evacuated missionaries believe the situation in Rwanda is in many ways a spiritual battle. They point to statements by press outlets and secular workers likening the slaughter to "demonic" activity. Says World Relief's Amy Hillstrom, "None of us knows for sure why the forces of evil are so prevalent in Rwanda. All we know is that people are suffering, and as God's people we need to reach out to them."

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Weekend in Glory Land

He had been a sailor and had travelled up and down the Rhine. What had she seen of the world tending a small store in Dokkum?

Cathy Smith

"Glory Land!" Sietske spat the words bitterly as she wiped the plank floor with her heavy cloth. Sitting back, she surveyed the expanse of hardwood she had just washed. Grimly she thought, *Ja, and wasn't this exactly what I was doing four months ago in Friesland? I had to come 2,000 miles to ruin my knees on floors in Glory Land?*

She was still upset with Jacob about the previous evening. After their supper, prepared on the hotplate in the dingy basement of their boarding house, Jacob had suggested a stroll to Jan's. "After all," he had urged, "it's so stifling hot upstairs and your brother has a television. And we really haven't seen him that often since we've come." So the two of them had walked to Jan's apartment building. But when they arrived, it was clear that Friday night was the night when Jan's cronies congregated in his cramped quarters to enjoy the boxing matches on his TV.

Sietske and Irene, Jan's Canadian girlfriend, had tried to make conversation but the language barrier had proved too much to overcome and eventually a silence had elapsed between them. Moreover, the men had become increasingly loud and agitated. Sietske had been repelled, both by the sport and by the enthusiasm displayed by these strangers over such obvious cruelty. What was worse, Jacob had pointedly ignored the plea in her eyes to leave and he, too, seemed caught up in the camaraderie of the men grouped in front of the box. Last night had been the first time that she and Jacob had slept apart in the two single beds, rather than awkwardly sharing one.

Sietske frowned, remembering the argument. She dropped her rag into the steel pail, sloshed it around in the suds, wrung it out and flung it back on the floor. Startled by the loud slap in the cavernous room, she worriedly checked over her shoulder. Mr. Henderson, the forbidding proprietor of Henderson's Fine Furniture, was fortunately nowhere nearby.

She scrubbed. With a sigh, she thought back to their landing in Quebec. She could have seen the trouble coming already. Naively, they had believed that Jan would be there to meet them when they disembarked. How crushed she had been to finally comprehend that a long train trip still awaited them!

Some of the other immigrants had advised them to buy some sandwiches for the journey. As they exited the station, Jacob spotted some neon lights. He had been certain they could buy some supplies there. Sietske shuddered as she recalled the murky scene inside. It had been a bar with dancing couples clinging shamelessly to one another in the smoky haze.

Even then Jacob had glossed over the indisputable worldliness of this country and had carried her away with his vision of Glory Land once again. "Sietske," he had said earnestly, his brown eyes sincere, "there's sin everywhere you go in the world. This will be a good place for us. We'll be able to buy a home here. I'll get a job. Jan says there's plenty of work and plenty of room in Canada. There are even two Christian Reformed churches in Kingsville! It will be fine, you'll see."

Sietske smiled humorlessly as she relived that speech. Of course Jacob would talk that way. He had been a sailor and had travelled up and down the Rhine. What had she seen of the world tending a small store in Dokkum?

He had made light of her fears, confident that in Canada they would build a glorious future together. Had she been swept along by the fervor of his words or by his dark, wavy hair and reassuring brown eyes? She paused her rhythmic wiping to straighten her back, wipe her forehead and push her glasses back up her nose. This streaming perspiration was a new and distasteful sensation. It was so incredibly hot in this country, especially on this floor where there was no ventilation.

The train ride from Quebec had been insufferably hot as well. Jacob had to admit that they had never experienced such heat back home. There had been no available berths so they had been forced to sleep in their seats, sticky and dusty. And it had been small comfort to know that they had plenty of sandwiches but nothing to drink.

As Sietske bent to continue the floor, a familiar wave of nausea washed over her. Not again, she protested wearily. they had been more than a little shocked at how quickly this had happened. This morning sickness seemed to go on forever. Wasn't it supposed to be over at three months? How she wished she could ask Catrien! Usually the bus ride was the worst, but this morning perhaps the ammonia fumes were to blame.

She rose unsteadily, grabbed the brown paper bag lying at the top of the stairs and hoped she could make it to the bathroom. Salivating and clammy, she flew down the two flights of stairs. Yes, she had made it in time. She retched in the toilet, absurdly pleased that she had taken the precaution of cleaning it first in the event of just such an emergency. Then she splashed some cold water on her face and leaned against the porcelain sink for a moment, allowing the sick feeling to pass.

Ascending the stairs, Sietske was relieved to observe that Mr. Henderson had left for his coffee break in the restaurant across the street. He was such a stern man! Last week Saturday he had scolded her for being late. How could she have possibly explained what had happened on the bus with her limited command of English?

As she had sat looking out of the window, shyly avoiding the glances of the other passengers and feeling somewhat queasy, a spasm had suddenly overwhelmed her. Without a doubt, she was going to be sick! Hastily she had snatched the folded brown paper bag beside her and vomited into it. It had been a horribly humiliating experience.

She had been fortunate to have had Mrs. Woltjer's bag handy. On Saturdays she always picked up bread downtown, half-price, for Mrs. Woltjer. When she arrived at the store, she had quickly descended to the basement to dispose of the bag. Mr. Henderson, unaware of her condition, had raised his voice testily, motioning her to get to work. A bag had been her companion ever since.

At the second floor landing Sietske took a breath and planned what she still had to do. Finish the floor, just a corner yet. After lunch, dust downstairs and wash the floor.

The doorbell chimed and Mr. Henderson strode in. He looked up at Sietske and beckoned her to come down into his office. With him was his assistant, Mrs. Whitney, an angular woman who had made little effort to befriend Sietske. Sietske sat on the proffered chair wonderingly, trying to read the two faces.

Mr. Henderson launched into a barrage of sentences, jabbing his pen in her direction. She gazed at him dumbfounded. She caught no meaning from the tirade. She understood the words "radio" and "clock" but the words didn't connect and she shook her head helplessly.

"*Ik weet niet*," she stammered. "Wat is it?" She knew that she cleaned the store very thoroughly. Bewildered, she watched as Mrs. Whitney left the office momentarily and returned with Sietske's brown paper bag.

Mr. Henderson grabbed the bag, waved it in Sietske's face and shouted at her. Terribly anxious in the face of his anger, she suddenly grasped the word for "police." In a flash the insinuation became clear. They believed that she had been stealing from the store! Small items could be easily tucked inside the bag.

"*Nee*, no," she quavered, "*de zak is voor...*" Distraught, she burst into tears. Unaffected by her distress, Mrs. Whitney escorted Sietske to the door. She had been fired.

Jacob fingered the white envelope bordered in black thoughtfully as he walked. He almost wished that he hadn't checked the post office box on his way home. Someone in Holland had died. The address was written in Catrien's hand, Sietske's oldest sister. Probably her grandmother, he guessed. She'd been in poor health

when they'd left. Never even made it to their wedding. Jacob's forehead creased as he wondered how Sietske would cope with this news, especially after the tension last night.

Everything had been much more difficult than he could have imagined. Jan, the adventurous "black sheep" of the family, had not been much help. And Mrs. Woltjer, although she had lent them some furniture, was a suspicious landlady, checking on the state of her rooms frequently. Sietske was so embarrassed about having to share a bathroom with people downstairs! Even the church had been a disappointment. Two elders had visited them shortly after their arrival but it was clear that their purpose was simply to ensure that Jacob received his envelopes and recognized his duty to support the "*kerk*."

They had had some fun times though, Jacob mused while waiting for a stoplight. There was that time about a month ago when he, Sietske, Jan and Irene had gone for a drive to Newberry in Jan's car. He had won two fruit baskets at a street carnival. Sietske had been delighted with the baskets, admiring the dainty jars of jelly and the bananas and oranges, all prettily wrapped in purple cellophane.

Sietske had generously offered one of the prizes to Mrs. Woltjer in appreciation for the items she had lent them. However, when their landlady had discovered how the gift had been obtained, she had cast a black glance at Jacob and huffed to Sietske, "*Ja*, and did he gamble in Friesland too, when he had to go back home to his *heit* and *mem*?" How Sietske's face had fallen when the present had been refused. Her pleasure had dwindled after that and she had consumed the groceries rather guiltily in the ensuing week.

Jacob trudged up the outside stairs to their rooms. Still, he was glad that he could work the extra Saturday now and then. It felt better to be working when Sietske worked. He hoped, not much longer for her. He had been so lucky, really, to have landed a job within his first week in Kingsville. Well, not lucky, he reminded himself; blessed. Without mentioning the possibility to Sietske and raising her hopes unnecessarily, he had already been eyeing a place Jan had showed him in the country, more suitable for them and the baby.

As he stepped inside the sitting room, Jacob was astonished to see Sietske curled up on one of the beds in the other room, crying. "Sietske, *lieve*, what is it? Why are you home already? What's wrong?" The spectre of a miscarriage loomed in his mind.

Sietske hugged him hard, their quarrel forgotten in her present need. Out spilled the story of the charge of theft and her dismissal. In the midst of her lament, she let escape the words she'd held back until now: "Jacob, maybe we should think about going back. We don't fit in here. Our baby should get to know our families. I know we prayed about it, but maybe we misunderstood the Lord's will."

Before Jacob could formulate a soothing reply, Sietske spotted the envelope he had laid on the bed. Her eyes flew to his and she tore it open. She scanned the lines and moaned, "*Beppe is dood.*" Suddenly hysterical, she shrilled, "I shouldn't have listened to you! You and your romantic notions about Glory Land." Her eyes blazed with blame, her depth of longing for Dokkum and things familiar too deep for expression.

Jacob turned and stalked out, anger welling up inside. In a moment it would boil over and things would be even worse. Couldn't Sietske see how hard he had been trying to keep up her spirits? And wasn't she the one who had wanted to get married? She was the one who had discouraged him from sailing for a few more years!

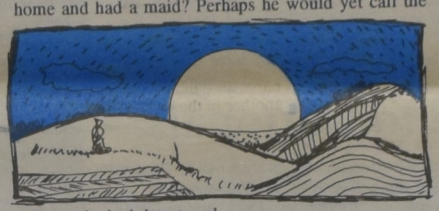
As he stomped down the street, Jacob's resentment burned against Henderson, too. How stupid could the man be to think that Sietske could be stealing from him? The idea was crazy. What if she would lose the baby because of all the trauma? A powerful urge to confront the man swept over him. He would relish the chance of telling Henderson what he thought of him. His thoughts whirling, Jacob found his steps leading toward Lakeshore Drive. He knew where the man lived because Jan had once pointed it out to him.

He had to walk a long way. Too bad the buses aren't running this time of day, he grumbled to himself. At last he found the place. His steps slowed. Viewed up close, the home was even more impressive than he had remembered. A wrought-iron fence separated the property from the sidewalk, but the gate swung open when he pushed on it. Uncertainty beginning to wash his resolve, he walked up the paved drive.

As he stepped onto the pillared portico, Jacob steered himself to ring the doorbell, rehearsing the English phrases in his mind. A woman opened the door. "I would like to speak with your... with Mr. Henderson," he blurted out. His accent sounded painfully heavy even in his own ears. Noticing her plain dress, he had realized at the last moment that the lady might be a housekeeper.

"Have a seat," the woman said. She indicated a carved bench in the spacious foyer. "Whom shall I say is calling?" Jacob shifted uncomfortably on the bench, hesitating." Jacob Teldersma, Sietske's husband. He knows who I am."

She left. Jacob viewed the elegant appointments nervously. His workboots were resting on an intricately patterned rug and above his head hung an ornate chandelier. His wavering courage dissolved. How could he possibly face up to a man who owned such a home and had a maid? Perhaps he would yet call the



police as he had threatened.

He got up and quietly slipped out of the front door. This was not going to help them, anyway. Observing the lengthening shadows, he stepped up his pace. It wouldn't do to have Sietske alone in the dark, not in her state.

There had been an awful incident only a few nights after they had arrived in Kingsville. A dreadful shriek had startled them awake. Jacob had jumped out of bed and pulled the drawn curtain aside to see two men running from another man lying on the ground. The victim was alternately groaning and shouting hoarsely.

Jacob had dressed and hurried downstairs. Other neighbors had gathered as well, and a police officer soon bustled his way to the prone man. He had not been able to understand the entire story but the man apparently was a restaurant owner who was known to close up late and carry his earnings home. A veteran, handicapped by an artificial leg, the businessman had been an easy prey as he exited his car.

Jacob walked even faster. No, it wouldn't do to have Sietske face the night on her own. She had been petrified for a long time after the mugging.

When he finally returned home, Jacob was famished and beat. Sietske was seated on the couch in her nightgown, her head covered in damp pincurls. There were red blotches around her mouth and her eyes were visibly puffy. She seemed subdued and sad.

"Sietske, I'm sorry I was gone for so long," Jacob apologized. "I walked to Henderson's house on Lakeshore." Her mouth dropped open in surprise. "*Ja*, I was going to tell him a thing or two. I wanted to give him a solid right uppercut like those boxers on TV." He demonstrated half-heartedly and shot her a rueful grin. "I left before I even saw him."

He knelt by her feet and gazed up at her seriously. "I'm sorry about your *beppe*," he said. "I know that you miss your family more than I miss mine. I'm used to being away from home. I know how scared you are to have a baby here so soon, without your *mem* or your sister. Once we have some money saved, we can go back for a visit." His voice dropped. "Or, even for good, if that's what you really want."

Sietske bent over and rumpled his hair. She was touched by his uncharacteristic lack of bravado, his confession of vulnerability. It dawned on her that perhaps all of Jacob's talk was as much for himself as it was for her.

"Jacob, let's set the alarm early enough so that we can walk to church for the Dutch service. That way we won't miss it if Jan forgets to pick us up." Jacob agreed, encouraged by her tone. More than once they had missed the earlier Dutch service because Jan liked to sleep in on Sunday mornings.

The next day, just before the service, Jacob sought out the *dominee* and informed him of Sietske's loss. Just as he had hoped, she was gratified to have her family mentioned in the congregational prayer. "Lord," the pastor had prayed, "as you welcome Sietske's grandmother into glory, may you also comfort Sietske and Jacob during this time of mourning." Sietske had shed a few discreet tears, but she had been comforted nonetheless.

After church, a young woman approached and invited them over for coffee. Sietske demurred because they had walked, but the woman, who introduced herself as Tine Bulthuis, waved off the objection with a pleasant laugh. "Hep will bring you home," she insisted. "It's not good for you to be alone today. Come have some *gebakjes* and see our baby. We are from Friesland, too, you know."

Jacob and Sietske had a wonderful time with Tine and her husband, Hep. Their home was small but cozy. They spoke proudly of the new Christian school being erected beside Second Church. Sietske bounced their baby on her knee, though neither she nor Jacob divulged their own secret just yet. Hep invited Jacob to join the choir, as more male voices were badly needed. Jacob, knowing how Sietske loved to sing, readily volunteered both of them. With a meaningful glance at Sietske he said, "*Ja*, it will be good for us to do something together for fun."

That evening, Sietske and Jacob took their soup out onto their tiny balcony to watch the sunset as they ate. The sunsets in Canada had been a spectacular treat. They marvelled at the brilliant colors and changing patterns. This was something else they had not experienced back home.

Tonight it was again a breathtaking panorama. Billowy dark clouds, haloed with fiery filigree by the hidden sun, hung heavily in a pink sky. Then, as the sun dipped beneath the clouds, orange and red rays streamed from its radiant centre to the horizon, silhouetted against further massed clouds in the distance.

Sietske and Jacob were silent for a time. Then Sietske remarked, "That is how beautiful heaven must be, I think. I can picture *Beppe* in a place like that." Jacob murmured his agreement.

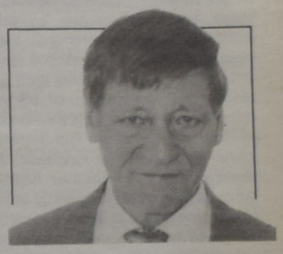
He went into the sitting room to get the Bible. They had been systematically reading through the psalms. He turned to Psalm 85. He chuckled as he read the first verse: "You showed favor to your land, O Lord: you restored the fortunes of Jacob." Sietske smiled back at him, sharing the joke. As the waning rays of the sun bathed them, Jacob read further. At verse nine his voice trembled a little and Sietske reached for his hand: "Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land." He put the Bible down and together they sat, content, and contemplated the sky.

Cathy Smith teaches at John Knox Christian School in Wyoming, Ont.

Slavery is still with us 130 years later

Economic Housekeeping

Bert Hielema



The month of May was "welfare month" for me. No, it was not the month where I went on welfare, but it was the month in which I attended talks on welfare in both Washington and Ottawa.

The Center for Public Justice, a Christian think-tank concerned with social justice and based in the U.S. Capital, organized a seminar there on the evening of May 19 and all day May 20. The topic: "Public Justice and Welfare Reform." President Clinton gave the indirect push for this conference when in his campaign he promised "to end welfare as we know it."

In many parts of the U.S., low wage earners are better off on welfare than working. Many feel that the system encourages women to have children out of wedlock, and claim that having one such a child is as good as a government job and having two is a promotion. Data compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics shows that whereas in 1950 only five per cent of total births took place in families without a father, in 1990 30 per cent of children were born out of wedlock.

In the black community (I should say African-American), illegitimate (now also a politically incorrect word) births exceed 60 per cent. From 1979 to 1990 the number of poor, never married female-headed families has almost tripled to 1,600,000 from 600,000. Many voters think that the present welfare system has caused this terrible situation.

Permanent under class

The conference was packed with 25 speakers who spoke in four two-hour sessions to about 150 people, many of them white male academics in dark suits. Among the panelists were a number of African-Americans. I was moved most by what they shared with us.

In the U.S. — and in Canada — many perceive black people to be a problem. In the U.S. they certainly constitute the largest single block of welfare recipients and black youths have a terrible reputation: 70 per cent of them will have been imprisoned before age 25, a figure that roughly corresponds with the percentage of fatherless families.

The Civil War, 130 years ago, was fought to free the black slaves. Once freed they were left with no means of support, no housing, no education and discriminated against until this day. Repeatedly, black politicians, academics and social workers have emphasized that in reality, slavery never ended and they cite the high black imprisonment rate as proof. The stigma attached to being black still costs many dearly when looking for work, when due for a promotion, or when police are looking for suspects.

I think they have a case. A little more than a century ago plantation owners felt that their economic survival depended on cheap slave labor; the result was a most bloody civil war. Now, in the 1990s, we still live with the aftermath of this slavery evident in broken families, despair and crime. Our failure to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our fellow humans has caused this welfare crisis and has laid bare a self-righteous disobedience with deep religious roots.

If we are honest with ourselves we must admit that all of us are slaves, too. We are addicted to the cheap labor provided by oil-driven machinery. We simply cannot conceive of a non-oil economy, even though we know that the use of carbon-based products leads to a polluted atmosphere — already evident in acid rain and depletion of the ozone layer. We all are carboholics; we all suffer from an infatuation with fossil fuel that will prove fatal for us.

I sometimes think that Jesus could not have lived in our times without sinning, as even switching on a light causes a minute degree of pollution, let alone driving a car. Bert Hielema lives five km from the nearest store near Tweed, Ont.

Niagara athletes head to Nationals

Sylvia Bakker

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. — Today, the Nationals; tomorrow, the Olympics.

Well, not necessarily, but three talented area athletes have proven themselves worthy of national competition by qualifying for the Nationals held in Victoria, B.C. later this month.

Wanita Dykstra, Esther Vahrmeyer and Steve Witvoet, members of the Niagara Region Athletic Club in Niagara Falls and former students of Beacon Christian High School in St. Catharines, Ont., are enduring rigorous daily training in preparation of the event.

High jumper Wanita Dykstra, 19, is determined to qualify for the Commonwealth Games also in Victoria later this summer. That means the first-year University of Toronto student needs a top three finish at the Nationals.

Dykstra is looking forward to the challenge.

"[The Nationals] are a different level of competition from other meets," she says. "It's more serious."

The competition level doesn't seem to hurt Dykstra's performance. The Canadian Junior and Ontario Senior record holder brought home gold at the Juniors last year with a jump of 1.83 metres. Her personal best is 1.92 metres.

Esther Vahrmeyer, a sophomore at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., will be competing in both the senior and junior levels in the demanding heptathlon.

The event consists of the high jump, long jump, javelin, shot put, 100-metre hurdles, 200-metre dash and 800-metre run.

SYLVIA BAKKER

AND THEY'RE OFF: *Off to the Canadian National Championships that is. Wanita Dykstra (far left), Phil Koole, Esther Vahrmeyer and Steve Witvoet share a laugh as they prepare for the Nationals to be held later this month in Victoria, B.C.*

Her strong events — long jump, shot put and 200-metre dash — have brought her 8th and 11th place finishes in previous Nationals.

The 19-year-old is confident she will come home with a medal in her last year of eligibility as a junior. As for the stiffer competition in the senior level, Vahrmeyer will be pleased with a top-ten result.

For high jumper Steve Witvoet, 21, his first year training with a coach has brought him immediate results — a first-time trip to the Nationals.

The senior at Calvin College currently jumps 2.03 metres and is aiming to jump 2.13 by the end of the summer. A height of 2.10 metres is needed to be ranked nationally.

Seventeen-year-old Phil Koole, a 110-metre hurdler, also trains with the others at the Niagara Region Athletic Club. The BCHS grade 12 student's personal best of 15.6 seconds was good enough to qualify for the Junior's. However, Koole did not attain this required time at a recognized meet to officially qualify. Koole is an OFSAA provincial competitor and a South Region champion.

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- September 11, 6:00 p.m.: **"Welcome to Students" Worship** at First Christian Reformed Church, London, 513 Talbot St. Followed by introductions and ice cream at the Boonstra's.
- September 12, 5:30 p.m.: **CornerStone Student Fellowship**. This is the first of our weekly suppers that run throughout the school year. Join us for a celebration of food and song, at Campus Pastor Ken Boonstra's house, 1035 Brough St.
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Marriages

WEVERINK-HANENBURG:

In the spirit of Christian joy Martin and Nel Weverink and William and Coby Hanenburg are pleased to announce the forthcoming wedding of their children

JUDITH
and
JEFFREY

The celebration of love will take place, the Lord willing, on Saturday, July 30, 1994, at 3 p.m., in the Aylmer Chr. Ref. Church, Aylmer, Ont., Dr. H.J. Boekhoven officiating.

WIERSMA-DOUMA:

With thankfulness to the Lord, John and Louise Wiersma, and Bob and Alice Douma, announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

BRADLEY PAUL WIERSMA
and
BETH ANN DOUMA

The Lord willing, the ceremony will take place in the Wellandport Orthodox Ref. Church, Wellandport, Ont., on Saturday, August 6, 1994, at 11 a.m.

Our prayer for them is based on Colossians 3:13 and 14.

Births

HAMPSON (nee DEJONG):

With joy and thanks to God, Mike and Deb and "Big Sister" Hailey are proud to announce the arrival of

MELANIE LIANNE
DEJONG

born on May 31, 1994, at 6:32 a.m., weighing 8 lbs.

Proud grandparents are Frank and Rita Hampson of Belleville, Ont., and John and Grace DeJong of Guelph, Ont.

Home address: 34 John Walter Crescent, Courtice, ON L1E 2W6

PRANGE:

Ron and Anita (nee Colyn) and brother Luke thank the Lord for the precious gift of

JILL DANIELLE

born in the wee hours of the morning on Thursday, May 5, 1994.

Jill is the 16th grandchild of John and Catherine Prange of Sarnia, Ont., and the 15th grandchild of Bill and Margaret Colyn of Wellandport, Ont. She is yet another great-grandchild of Mr. J. and Mrs. C. Colyn, Sr., of Shalom Manor, Grimsby, Ont. We are thankful that we can count on the promises of God and his people as we raise Jill.

Home address: 2736 London Road, Sarnia, ON N7T 7H2

Peter and Marja are on Holidays!

Births

WILSON (nee BOVEN):

"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4).

Paul and Theresa Wilson are pleased to announce with joy and thankfulness to God the birth of their son

IAN PAUL

born on June 15, 1994.

A brother for Eric. Rejoicing with us are grandparents Fred and Bernice Boven and Stu and Jackie Wilson, and many brothers, sisters and cousins.

Address: 2985 Glace Bay Rd., Mississauga, ON L5N 2J9

Anniversaries

"God in His faithfulness and love joined together the lives of

ANJE HAVINGA
and
WILLEM BUS

on Aug. 2, 1944.

He has blessed this union for 50 years of togetherness. We, their children and grandchildren, give thanks to our covenant God for their nurture, love, encouragement, support and faith given to us.

Pia & Jake Ypma — Salmon Arm, B.C.
Esther, Patrick, Ingrid
Corrie & John Kamphof — Surrey, B.C.
Eric, Joel, Nathan
Bill Bus — Thunder Bay, Ont.

Best wishes at an open house on Aug. 2, 1994, from 1-4 p.m. at their home, 20181 Grade Crescent, Langley, B.C.

1954 August 5 1994

"I will bless you, and you will be a blessing" (Gen. 12:2).

With thankfulness and praise unto God we are happy to announce the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

HENRY and TILLY HOEKSTRA
(nee DYKSTRA)

May God continue to bless you in the years to come:

Hilda (deceased)
Randy & Dorothy Devries — Port Perry
Jacob, Nicholas, Tyler
Mark & Wendy VanderMeer — Caledonia
Yvonne, Craig, Nicole, Bryan
George & Betty VanderMeer — Niagara-on-the-Lake
Jenica, Stephanie
Jeff & Leona Hoekstra — Dundalk
Daniel
Joanne Hoekstra & Mike Costa (fiance)

Open house from 2-4 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 6, 1994, at John Knox Chr. School, 82 Mclaughlin Rd., Brampton, Ont.

Home address: 50 Campbell Drive, Brampton, ON L6X 2H7

Anniversaries

Leiderdorp Hamilton
the Neth. Ont.
1954 July 8 1994

Genesis 12:1,2.

With thankfulness to God, we are pleased to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and our Opa and Oma

WILLEM and ANNIE
NAGTEGAAL
(nee MEIJER)

We pray that God will give them many more happy and healthy years together.

Doug & Eileen Nagtegaal — Hamilton, Ont.
Rachel, Michael, Andrew
Clarence & Joyce Nagtegaal — Hamilton, Ont.
Gregory, Christopher, Valerie
Clarence & Debbie Bevaart — Caledonia, Ont.
Robert, Timothy, Daniel

Home address: 46 Victor Blvd., Hamilton, ON L9A 2V4

Goderich Georgetown
1954 July 16 1994

With thankfulness to God we happily announce the 40th anniversary of our parents and grandparents

HENK and MARYKE (MARY)
VANDERBURGH
(nee KNETSCH)

Congratulations and love from your children and grandchildren:

Tom & Marilyn Konyndyk — Georgetown
Robyn, Adele, Juliane, Laura
Jerry & Diana Vanderburgh — Brampton
Tiffany, Michele, Jolene, Lindsay, Jason
Harry & Milly Roffel — Georgetown
Leanne, Fred, Daniel, Emily, Dana
John & Marlene Vanderburgh — Georgetown
Kayla, Rebecca, Michael
Rod & Patty Van Rys — Georgetown
Benjamin

Address: 9 Noble Court, Georgetown, ON L7G 1M5

Personal

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Why not write to us at C.M.C.S.? Enclose $3.00 for our information package.

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More male members are encouraged to apply.

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Classifieds

Anniversaries

Congratulations to Simon and Nell de Ruiter (nee Hoogland) on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary!

Rotterdam 1944 Stratford July 26 1994

"But they urged him strongly, 'stay with us'" (Luke 24:29a).

With gratitude and praise to God we joyfully celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

SIMON and NELL DERUITER
(nee HOOGLAND)

We pray that the Lord will grant them many more blessed years together.

Congratulations and love from:

Walter & Lammy deRuiter — Woodstock, Ont.
Lisa, Greg, Roselyn
Nellie deRuiter — Burnaby, B.C.
Rose & Peter Keegstra — Inglewood, Ont.
Laura, Karen, Steven
Margaret & Jasper Keizer — Trenton, Ont.
Leona, Peter, Brian
Ron & Rolinda deRuiter — Lucan, Ont.
Michelle, Nicole, Matthew
Paul & Karen deRuiter — London, Ont.
Jenna, Brendan, Ian
Rick & Janet deRuiter — London, Ont.
Erica, Alyssa, Justine, Meghan

Open house will be held on Saturday, July 23, 1994, from 2-4 p.m., in the Sebringville Community Centre, Sebringville, Ont.

Home address: 11 Rankin Street, Stratford, ON N5A 6H8

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love" (Eph. 5:1).

It is because we love them and are thankful to God for them, that we want you to know Mom and Dad are having an anniversary.

On Aug. 7, 1994,

BERT and ALEDA VANSOELEN
(ZANTINGH)

will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary. May God bless you together with many more years of work for Him in His kingdom and with your family. Thank you Mom and Dad. With love from your children and grandchildren:

Carolyn & Martin Hamming — Cobourg, Ont.
Alicia, Kimberly, Robert, Chris, Ben
Ann & Alfred Kiers — Wainfleet, Ont.
Kari, Danielle, Jody, Megan, Teryl
Bernice & Fred Geerlinks — Smithville, Ont.
Adam, Scott, Jason, Jeffery
Janet & Anthony Snippe — Lowbanks, Ont.
Matthew, Rebecca, Sarah, Ryan
Clarence VanSoelen — Wellandport, Ont.
Henry & Grace VanSoelen — Wellandport, Ont.
Collin, Kelly, Caleb

Home address: R.R. #2, Dunnville, ON N1A 2W2

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(603) 384-6613 (evenings)

Job Opportunities

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Book now for our November 26, 1994,
"FALL CRAFT SALE"
at John Knox Christian School, Brampton, Ont.
Call Wendy (905) 799-3013

Obituaries

Born on Aug. 25, 1908, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands,

JANET FRIEND
(JANNETJE VRIEND-ROLFING)

The Lord called her home on June 29, 1994.

Beloved wife of Norman John Friend (Nanne Jan Vriend).

Dear mother of:
Nelly de Kok
Rina Moore
Jeannette de Jong
Bill Friend
Frank Friend
Norman Friend
Evelina Bassie
Margareth Stuffles
Jack Friend
Peter Friend

Mom will be greatly missed by her children, children-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Interment was in Newmarket, Ont., on the 4th of July, 1994. A memorial service was held the 4th of July in Holland Chr. Homes in Brampton, Ont.

Suddenly at her residence on Monday, June 27, 1994, the Lord took home His child

SIETSKE HETTINGA

of Canterbury St., Woodstock, Ont., in her 87th year.

Beloved wife of Thewis Hettinga.

Beloved mother of:
Art & his wife Renny — Embro
Peter & his wife Sylvia — Woodstock
Lola Dewit & her husband John — Beachville
Ray & his wife Marg — Woodstock
Reta Burns & her husband Ron — North Bay

Loved grandmother (Beppe) of 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her grandson Terry and one sister.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 29, 1994, at the Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church in Woodstock, Ont., with Dr. John VanderBorgh officiating. Interment at Oxford Memorial Park Cemetery.

After a lengthy illness the Lord took home to be with Him our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

WINNIE KROES

on June 27, 1994.

Psalm 27:4.

Mother of:
Henry & Akke Kroes — Acton, Ont.
Wolter & Blanch Kroes — Fergus, Ont.
Ada & William Gils — Guelph, Ont.
Ann & Pete Flikkema — Brampton, Ont.
Agnes & William VanHalem — Holstein, Ont.

Predeceased by her daughter Wilma Kazemier, 1987.

Grandmother of 19 and great-grandmother of 34.

"O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever" (Ps. 136:1).

On July 1, 1994, God called home to be with Him, our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather

JAN KLOOSTERMAN

in his 87th year.

Predeceased by his wife Okje Kloosterman-Hoekstra in 1977.

Survived by and dear father of:
John & Jane Kloosterman — Thornton, Ont.
Aam & Hilda Kloosterman — London, Ont.
Jannie & Pieter Mudde — Thornton, Ont.
Sid & Willie Kloosterman — Thornton, Ont.
Wayne & Lena Kloosterman — Thornton, Ont.
Gary & Ruth Kloosterman — Hot Springs, Ark. USA
Nienke & Wayne Veenstra — Phelpston, Ont.

23 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and three sisters in Drachten, Fr., the Netherlands.

Wolvega, Fr. July 29, 1904 Medicine Hat, Alta. June 8, 1994

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing" (2 Tim. 4: 7 and 8).

It has pleased the Lord to call home at the age of 89 years

HENDRIK MENDEL

Beloved husband of Aafke Mendel (Bouma) and dear father of:
Della & Brian Bongaards — Medicine Hat
Florence & John Wagenaar — Redcliff
Audry & Ken Carson — Sault St. Marie
Janet & Ed Danilchuk — Winnipeg

10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral service took place on June 11, 1994, at the First Chr. Ref. Church of Medicine Hat, Alta., the Rev. Menno Jorritsma officiating.

Correspondence address: c/o B. Bongaards, 1726 9th Ave. N.E., Medicine Hat, AB T1C 1L5

Safely in the hands of the Lord

WILLEM ROOS

on Tuesday, March 8, 1994, at the age of 75.

Beloved husband of Helena Roos-Vanden Braak.

Dear father of:
Jayne Roos
Bill Jr. & Christina Roos
Dick Roos

Proud Opa of Jo-Anne, Jennifer, Jeremy, Rachel, Adam, Matthew.

Funeral was held on March 11, 1994, at the Bethel Chr. Ref. Church, Newmarket, Ont., Pastor William Dykstra officiating.

Correspondence address: 384 Oak St., Newmarket, ON L3Y 3X5

1919 1994

On June 20, 1994, after a lengthy illness, his heavenly Father called

JAN PAAS

to his eternal home.

Loving husband of Ebeltje Paas (Daling).

Dear father and grandfather of:
Ina Eisen — Fergus, Ont.
Mark, Alison, Leanne
Charlie & Grace Paas — Strathroy, Ont.
Christie, Dale, Anita
Steve & Joanne Paas — Burlington, Ont.
Marcia, Melinda
John & Heather Paas — Strathroy, Ont.
Kyle, Krystal, Kristian
Dirk Paas (predeceased 1976)
Ralph & Ann Paas — London, Ont.
Stephanie, Martin, Robert, Vanessa

"In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust, let me never be ashamed: deliver me in Thy righteousness" (Ps. 31:1).

Corresponding address: Mrs. E. Paas, 31 Egerton St., Strathroy, ON N7G 2E6

On May 15, 1994,

NED W. POSTMA

of 1151 Skyview Dr., Oakdale, CA 95361, passed away at the age of 77 years.

His wife Anna.

His children:
Johanna & Duane Mulder
Bill & Eva Postma
John Postma & David Karp
Ed & Akke Postma
Jane & John Erro
Charles & Diana Postma
Jim Postma

Nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Predeceased in death by his son Ted.

We give thanks to God for our husband, father and grandfather.

Teachers

HOUSTON, B.C.: Houston Chr. School, located in the scenic Bulkley Valley, is in need of a **part-time Kindergarten teacher** for the 1994-95 school year. Interested teachers are encouraged to contact the school by writing to:

Houston Chr. School
Mr. Doyle Smiens, Principal
Box 237
Houston, BC V0J 1Z0

Thank you for your interest.

ORILLIA, Ont.: Orillia Chr. School invites applications for a 40% teaching position at the **Grade 3/4** level. This is a one year position commencing September 1994. Please address inquiries and/or resumes to:

Mr. George Kamphuis, Principal
Orillia Christian School
Box 862, Orillia, ON L3V 1G6
Phone: (705) 326-0532

Classifieds

Obituaries

March 8, 1917 - June 24, 1994

God in His grace called to His eternal home, our husband, father and grandfather

CORNELIUS SCHUURMAN

in his 78th year.

Beloved husband of 47 years to Reini (Elgersma).

Loving father and grandfather of:

Cor & Appie Schuurman
Greg, Mark

Ray & Dina Schuurman
Lori-Ann, Andrea, Raymond

Wilma & Henry deYoung
Stephanie, David, Esther, Daniel

Sharon & Leroy Guenther
Letitia, Craig, Kevin

Ralph & Audrey Schuurman
Alison, Jeremy, Ryan, Joel, Leah

Hilda-Ann & Ron Voorberg
Tracy, Christopher, Vanessa, Trevor

Len & Joanne Schuurman
Darren, Lindsay, Breana

Miranda Schuurman

Predeceased by grandson Jeff (1990).

Funeral service was held on June 28, 1994, in the Dundas Calvin Chr. Ref. Church, led by Rev. J. Julien. Revelation 7:14.

Correspondence address: Mrs. Reini Schuurman, R.R. #2, Branchton, ON N0B 1L0

Teachers

WELLANDPORT, Ont.: Wellandport Chr. School invites applications for a **part-time special education** position. This is a **30% position (4 afternoons per week).** Those with classroom and/or special education experience are encouraged to apply. Direct applications to:

W. Thies, Principal
Wellandport Chr. School
R.R.1, Wellandport
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Church News

Classis meeting
— **Classis Chatham** will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in the Strathroy East CRC. Agenda materials must reach **Jan H.G. Vandergeest, Stated Clerk, by Aug. 1, 1994.**

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Job Opportunities

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c/o Karl J. Veldkamp, 79 Centre St. West, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3P6 Fax: (416) 746-8319.

For further information contact Karl J. Veldkamp at (416) 746-4710

Job Opportunities

CALVIN
College

President

The Board of Trustees of Calvin College invites nominations and applications for the successor to President Anthony J. Diekema who will retire August 1995.

Calvin College is an independent comprehensive liberal arts institution, affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church. With a combined financial budget in excess of $50 million, Calvin is one of the nation's largest and most respected evangelical Christian colleges. Located in Grand Rapids, the second-largest metropolitan area in Michigan, Calvin's 370-acre campus is a modern, well-planned community. Its 220 full-time faculty serve a student body of over 3,700, with a faculty-student ratio of 1:17. Calvin's outstanding faculty, 83 % of whom have earned the highest degree in their field, is committed to the integration of Christian faith and scholarly discipline. Calvin offers a variety of academic programs in some 75 major and minor fields.

The Search Committee seeks a President who is:

- An **Academic Servant** who embraces the distinctively Reformed Christian character of the overall mission of Calvin and is keenly aware of the issues and trends in the contemporary world of higher education.
- An **Effective Administrator**, to provide administrative excellence in leading a complex and increasingly diverse institution.
- A **Community Liaison** to communicate well within the diverse constituencies of Calvin and the public at large and interpret a Reformed view of Christian higher education.
- A **Creative Steward** to secure and manage the multitude of material and human resources necessary to maintain and enhance Calvin.

An application should include a resume or curriculum vitae with a letter of application that discusses the candidate's qualifications. Application review will begin on **August 15, 1994**, and continue until a successful candidate is selected. Applications and letters of nominations can be sent in strictest confidence to:

Grace Achterhof, Chair
Presidential Search Committee
3281 Lake Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Calvin College is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Classifieds

Miscellaneous | **Miscellaneous** | **Miscellaneous** | **Miscellaneous** | **Miscellaneous**

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Project S.O.W., Attention: Marg Louwes
335 St. John's Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2W 1H2
Phone: (204) 582-4103

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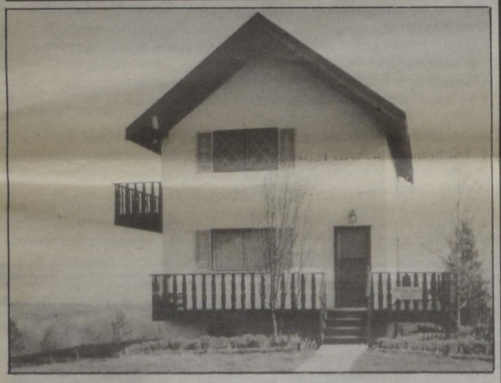

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Please send resume to:
Grace Christian Reformed Church
25 Channel Nine Court
Agincourt, ON M1S 4B5
Attention: John Kamerman

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Wasaga Beach, ON L0L 2P0
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Rates to September 30, 1994

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July 1, 15 and August 12, 19 and 26

Christian Courier will **not** publish July 8, 22, 29 and August 5.

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Classifieds

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Miscellaneous

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Edmonton, AB T5W 0G4
Office hours (403) 474-4230

Miscellaneous

Lakewood Senior Citizens Day

on August 18, 1994

at Lakewood Christian Campgrounds, **Forest, Ont.** Starting at 9:30 a.m.
Speaker: **Rev. Ralph Koops.**
Special music as well as Grandparents' Mini-Olympics!

Events

Christian Festival Concert

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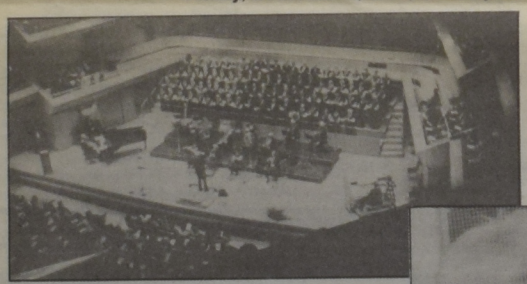
Friday, November 4, 1994, at 8:00 p.m.



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Calendar

July 17 Dutch worship service led by Dr. Hilbert Vander Plaat, 3 p.m., CRC, **Ancaster**, Ont.

July 28-Aug. 1 ICS Ontario Family Conference, at HDCH, **Ancaster**, Ont. Theme: "Living in Grace: Forgiveness and Hope in Uncertain Times." Featured speaker: Dr. Lewis Smedes (Fuller Theological Seminary). Info.: (416) 979-2331.

Aug. 18 "Senior Citizens Day" at Lakewood Christian Campgrounds, **Forest**, Ont. Starts at 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Rev. Ralph Koops.

Aug. 19-21 40th anniversary celebration weekend at the CRC, **Vernon**, B.C. Friends, former members and pastors are invited to attend. Info.: (604) 549-1746.

Aug. 27 "Kaatsen," 11:30 a.m., Southside Park, **Woodstock**, Ont.

Sept. 5 "Kaatsen," 11:30 a.m., Sherwood Park, **Stoney Creek**, Ont. Barbecue to follow.

Sept. 21 "Immanuel Youth Choir" from Urk, the Netherlands (Jan Q. Zwart, director) in concert, 7:45 p.m., at Melrose United Church (Locke/Homewood), **Hamilton**, Ont. Info.: (905) 648-6585/3170

World news bytes

Carl D. Tuyl

The strawberry crop has come and gone. Some of the berries wound up in the freezer. On some cold winter day they will come out, a bit soggy and discolored, yet a reminder of the Giver of all good gifts.

★ ★ ★

Federal Trade Minister John Manley met with his provincial counterparts to try to hammer out a deal which would eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers. The resulting agreement has more exemptions than a porcupine has quills. Yes, we can buy Moosehead beer in Ontario, but only after some intermediate bureaucratic wrangling. I read this wonderful example of that art: An army chaplain received a document that was not addressed to him so he initialed it and passed it on to the officer for whom the document was intended. It got back to him with this memo: "This document did not concern you, please erase your initials and initial your erasure."

★ ★ ★

The famous Liberal "Red Book" promised an overhaul of the government's social programming. The Red Book pledged a "new vision" for Canada's health system in the 21st century. So far the vision is still cloudy because the provinces are throwing mud and stones at it as if it were a rampaging elephant. The vision's publication has been postponed till October. Sometimes visions need to mature like sauerkraut in a barrel.

★ ★ ★

And while the provinces vent their agitation about the prospect of losing authority in the area of health care they are even more up in arms about the federal proposal for a new national sales tax. Some commentators said that Finance Minister Paul Martin's proposal was DOA — dead on arrival. It might not make it to the floor of the House of Commons when Parliament resumes in the fall. Albertans, especially, regard a provincial sales tax with the disapproval of a barber looking at a bald head.

★ ★ ★

A dinosaur skeleton has been found in Saskatchewan. I am not excited about that, for we have a lot of live ones walking around hereabouts. Some of them even rub shoulders with me.

★ ★ ★

While most of the world's TV viewers were glued to the tube watching World Cup matches, some U.S. stations treated us to the legal manoeuvres of the O.J. Simpson preliminary hearing. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales bares his soul and the Princess of Wales bared her shoulders. No contest which picture was more attractive.

★ ★ ★

There is one obituary report: the Communist Party of Canada is no more. Deceased, defunct and departed without so much as an eulogy. Since the party was unable to field 50 candidates in the last election it succumbed by way of federally administered euthanasia.

★ ★ ★

The *Montreal Gazette* carried an item that caught the eye of Karin and Lloyd Burghart: "A solemn high mass and hoedown will mark St. John the Baptist Day at the Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist. Admission $5.95 for adults and children free." That will be a lively service, eh?

★ ★ ★

My hometown, the Hague, made it to the pages of the *Globe and Mail*, which reported increased gang activity in that city. I used to be severely threatened by police officers on bikes for playing ball in the street. Now gangs rip off the citizenry, prowl the streets to commit vandalism, and steal the purses of old ladies. All that without a whole lot of police involvement.

★ ★ ★

Japan now has a socialist prime minister. This startling event came about by an alliance of the Liberal Democrats and the Socialists. Politics still makes for very strange bedfellows. Mr. Murayama, judging by his past record, is politically slightly to the left of the Red Square in Moscow. The wide differences between the Liberal Democrats and the Socialists mean that Mr. Murayama's reign is likely to be fractious, fragile and probably short lived. C.C., always really wanting to give its readers the inside scoop, reports that Mr. Murayama is proud of his trademark long eyebrows. They are so long they must be combed. On the wall of his

office a sign that says: "Firm eyebrows and decision-making." Now there is a political slogan to chew on!

Carl Tuyl is a chaplaincy co-ordinator in Canada for the Christian Reformed Church and is a member of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care.

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FROM COAST TO COAST

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Abbotsford-CFVR	7:30am	850
Burns Lake-CFLD	9:15am	1400
Kitimat-CKTK	8:30am	1230
Osoyoos-CJOR	8:00 am	1490
Penticton-CKOR	8:00 am	800
Port Alberni-CJAV	7:00 pm	1240
Prince George-CIRX	7:00am	94.3
Princeton-CIOR	8:00 am	1400
Smithers-CFBV	9:15am	1230
Summerland-CHOR	8:00 am	1450
Vancouver-CJVB	7:00 am	1470
Vancouver-(fm)	7:00 am	103.3
Vernon-CJIB	9:30pm	940

ALBERTA

Brooks-CKBR	8:00am	1340
Edson-CJYR	10:00am	970
Ft. McMurray-CJOK	8:30 am	1230
High River-CHRB	6:30am	1280
St. Albert-CHMG	8:00 am	1200

SASKATCHEWAN

Estevan-CJSL	8:00am	1280
Weyburn-CFSL	8:00am	

MANITOBA

Altona-CFAM	9:30am	950
Steinbach-CHSM	9:30am	1250
Winnipeg-CKJS	9:15am	810

ONTARIO

Ajax-CHOO	9:30am	1390
Atikokan-CFAK	9:30am	1240
Burlington-CING (fm)	8:00am	107.9
Chatham-CFCO	6:00 am	630
Fort Frances -CFOB	9:30 am	640
Guelph-CJOY	10:00pm	1460
Hamilton-CHAM	6:30 am	1280
Kapuskasing-CKAP	9:00am	580
Kingston-CFMK	6:30 am	96.3
Newmarket-CKDX	9:00 am	1480
Oshawa-CKAR	8:00am	1350
Owen Sound-CFOS	10:30am	560
Pembroke-CHVR	10:00am	1350
St.Catharines-CKTB	7:30pm	610
Sarnia-CHOK	7:30am	1070
Stratford-CJCS	8:45am	1240
Windsor-CKWW	8:30am	580
Wingham-CKNX	10:30am	920
Woodstock-CKDK (fm)	8:00am	102.3

NEW BRUNSWICK

Newcastle-CFAN	9:00am	790
Saint John-CHSJ	9:00am	700

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown-CFCY	7:00am	630

QUEBEC

Montreal-CFQR (fm)	7:30am	92.5

NOVA SCOTIA

Digby-CKDY	6:00am	1420
Kentville-CKEN	8:30am	1490
Middleton-CKAD	8:30am	1350
New Glasgow-CKEC	7:30am	1320
Sydney-CJCB	8:00am	1270
Weymouth-CKDY	8:30am	103.1
Windsor-CFAB	8:30am	1450

FRENCH RADIO:
Perspectives Réformées

ONTARIO

Cornwall-CFIX	9:30am	1170
Timmins-CRCL	9:30am	620

QUEBEC

Montreal-CHRS	8:00am	1090
Valleyfield-CFLV	8:45am	1370

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Ontario & Quebec ..... 7:00 & 10:00pm
Nfld., N.B., N.S. & P.E.I. . 8:00 & 11:00pm

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News

De Bolster retires from Redeemer post to 'marvelous' applause

He was an author, a pastor and a consummate conductor

Robert VanderVennen

ANCASTER, Ont. — When a person retires after a lifetime of distinguished servant leadership, the community he has served should publicly give thanks to him and to God.

That's what Redeemer College did on June 14 to mark Rev. Henry De Bolster's 13 years of service as its founding president. It prepared a farewell dinner for 150 community supporters to celebrate God's blessings to Henry and his wife, Cobie, and the blessings the college has received through them.

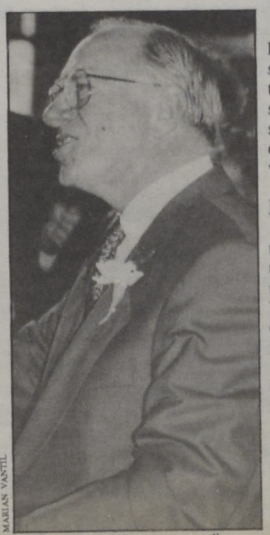
Emceed by Kees Vreugdenhil, the evening featured speeches, music from a college vocal group, and the presentation of the gift of a portrait of De Bolster to hang in the college.

De Bolster's service to the college began much before he became president in 1981. When an anonymous donor provided money for a study of the feasibility of having a Christian undergraduate college, De Bolster chaired the committee that conducted the study and also led the group that planned the college from 1975 to its opening.

Not an academic

Yet choosing him as president was not inevitable. He was not an academic but a preacher without formal education beyond seminary. But the board recognized his vision for higher Christian education, his enthusiasm and his ability to relate with people. They knew that he would be able to win the members of the Christian Reformed Church to the support of the college.

"In many ways he was exactly the right person to be our first president," says English professor Hugh Cook. De Bolster showed great vision for Reformed higher education and has a great deal of courage and persistence without being abrasive, Cook adds. De Bolster relates especially well to the older generation and to business people. Conservative Christians trust De Bolster.



MARIAN VANTIL

"So wonderful to see you."

According to Rev. John Zantingh, former chair of the board, "there's a fiery aspect to your personality, but we always found you Christ-centered. We love your characteristic superlatives: 'wonderful,' 'marvelous,' 'miraculous.'"

"In addition to his visionary leadership De Bolster always stayed a pastor," says Al Wolters, professor of biblical studies. "He showed good spiritual leadership, and students felt free to come to him with their spiritual problems."

Leadership evident

De Bolster has represented the college without flinching to the Ontario government and to the professional Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, which granted Redeemer accreditation.

De Bolster led the college through the development and building of its own campus.

But the financial pressures of the splendid campus also brought the darkest days of his presidency. "Imaginative" financing to lower the tuition costs didn't work. The Brookview Trust collapsed and many faculty members felt that in the reporting on that disaster they had been lied to. The president was always very loyal to his staff, but in that case he may not have insisted on having all the information he should have had, many observers felt.

Yet he has also been praised for his fundraising abilities. The chair of the region of Hamilton-Wentworth in fact took the occasion of the farewell dinner to tell de Bolster: "You're an author who wrote the book on fundraising; you never asked for money, but got everything else you asked for."

An inspiration

Under De Bolster's leadership Redeemer has also made place for two creative research and study centres, the Pascal Centre to advance Christian thinking in the natural sciences, and the Dooyeweerd Centre which will deal with the foundations of Christian scholarly thinking.

De Bolster concluded the celebrative evening by admitting, "I never got used to being president of Redeemer College."

One of the more interesting description's of De Bolster's performance came from the former conductor of the Hamilton Symphony, Boris Brott: "You are truly an inspiration, a consummate conductor."

OACS may go to Supreme Court

...continued from p.1

schools. Tuition for one student attending a Christian school ranges from $3,500 to $6,000 per year.

Supporting the 70,000 students attending independent schools would cost the province between $156 million and $340 million a year. Ontario now spends $14 billion a year to support public, Catholic and French-language school boards. While this decision was more severe than the 1992 ruling, the OACS does not see the process as a complete failure.

"We lost a little bit of ground," Ralph Luimes of the OACS said. "But we gained when it was publicly admitted in court for the first time that the public school system is secular.

"Chief Justice Dubin said the public schools discriminate against all religions . . . . The myth of a Protestant public school system is gone."

"The myth of a Protestant public school system is gone.

Gerald Vandezande of the Ontario Multi-Faith Coalition for Equity in Education said he was deeply disappointed by the decision but not surprised.

Vandezande felt the OACS did not lobby the government enough before heading to court. The coalition, made up of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, supported the OACS and the CJC in court.

"The decision was a serious blow," Vandezande said. "But I think it ought to go to the Supreme Court, and I believe they have a reasonable chance of winning there."

In a 4-1 ruling, the court also said the province does not discriminate by not providing health-support programs for handicapped students in private schools — students like Wally Elgersma who suffers from spina bifida. The province refuses to provide a nurse at the Christian school he attends.

"It is blatant discrimination when a nurse can help us in our home, and help us at the public school, but not at the Christian school," said his father, Leo Elgersma. Wally requires a wheelchair and needs his catheter changed several times during the school day.

Neither the OACS nor the CJC have indicated if they will fight the issue further in court or concentrate their efforts on political lobbying.

News Digest

A new kind of birth control

SAN DIEGO — To discourage teenage pregnancy, a San Diego couple have created a five-kilogram battery-powered doll, called "Baby Think it Over."

The doll cries "at random but realistic intervals" and can be stopped only by using a key that is strapped to the adolescent by a tamper-proof bracelet.

The teaching aid comes in four ethnic versions, says *USA Today*, as well as a drug-addicted version with a higher cry and body tremors.

An optional monitor records how long the baby cries and how gently it is handled; it also adjusts the doll's sleep cycle to reflect a contented or cranky baby.

Low-fat diet reduces mental decline

ROTTERDAM — A Dutch study of nearly 5,000 men and women aged between 55 and 94 has found that mental decline and dementia are linked to fatty deposits on the walls of the body's major arteries.

Although hardened arteries are generally associated with the heart, says *The European*, they can occur anywhere in the body.

Prof. Albert Holman at Rotterdam's Erasmus University said mental decline "correlates with evidence seen on brain scans of what we call white matter lesions."

This may explain why some old people show no mental decline at all and is another reason to follow a low-fat diet to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Van Dyk appointed VP

ANCASTER, Ont. — Redeemer College announces the appointment of Dr. Wytse van Dyk as acting vice-president starting July 1. This is a one-year interim appointment to fill the vacancy left by the promotion of Dr. Justin Cooper to the presidency of Redeemer College.